

discourse about control measures for moles and garden slugs. On the other hand, Strickland's building of a "world-renowned department[of entomology]" at Alberta receives less than a page in the entire book. Acknowledged leaders in entomological education such as J.G. Rempel(University of Saskatchewan) are dealt with in a cursory manner that borders on gratuitous. Instead we are supplied with tiresome detail of control campaigns(proportions of ingredients for bait mixtures, quantities of bait spread, dollar value of crops saved)that has its place in technical reports but is of doubtful value here.

The third problem is one of omission of several important events and people. Two of the earliest naturalists in Canada were James Isham and Alexander Graham at York Factory(Manitoba). Neither are mentioned even though there is a very interesting story of Graham's data being pirated before its inclusion in Pennant's "Arctic Zoology". E.M. Walker's discovery of *Grylloblatta campodeiformis* near Banff, one of the major taxonomic discoveries to be made in Canada, is not mentioned although a range extension of it by J. Gregson into British Columbia is.

The final problem is one of editing of both text and figures. There is simply too much use of quotes from reports of various federal entomology labs. In places(e.g., Chapter 15) perhaps one third of the text has been written by other people. Many quotes used contain details of control measures, crops saved, costs etc. whose omission could only enhance readability. The choice of the 57 plates in this book is puzzling. For example, James Marshall, mentioned only at one point in the book is shown, yet William Downes and Reginald Glendenning, each of whom commands an entire chapter of text, are nowhere to be found. The plates are not numbered and are grouped at the beginning of each section. Hence, any reference to them in the text is followed by a frustrating search for the relevant illustration. Another curious anomaly is that, except for line drawings on reproductions of posters and one picture of several hundred mosquitoes on a fence post, there are no pictures of insects in the book. This omission is puzzling in a book that is oriented to the insect and not the entomologist

Dr. Riegert has written a book whose cover promises more than the text delivers. The subtitle implies a more even treatment than appears. The main title would lead a non-entomologist to reasonably expect some insight into how scientists intimately connected with DDT view its use and associated controversies. In fact, DDT is mentioned only four times and then only in passing.

The word 'history' is 70% story. Hopefully any history will tell a story and not just recite events. Unfortunately this book does the latter.

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MATTHEWS, E.G. 1980. A guide to the genera of beetles of South Australia. Part 1. Archostemata and Adephega. Special Educational Bulletin Series, South Australian Museum, Adelaide. vii + 50 pp., and 18 unnumbered plates of photographs.

Although policies of the Australian Government make it difficult for a foreign entomologist to remove insect specimens from that country, that same Government is not opposed to

encouraging excellent foreign entomologists to take up work there. Thus, we find on the staff of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) and other Australian institutions, a number of recent immigrants to the island continent, who are doing excellent work on the indigeneous fauna. One of these entomologists is Eric G. Matthews, curator of insects in the South Australian Museum, Adelaide. Dr. Matthews, who took his PhD at Cornell University, with Howard E. Evans, and who subsequently immigrated to Australia, is well known for his excellent studies of dung-using scarbaeid beetles. This present volume, written by him, is the first in a series intended to provide a means of identifying to genus adult beetles that inhabit the state of South Australia.

An Introduction provides a succinct history of study of Australian beetles. Statistical information is summarized by means of a graph, plotting numbers of papers published about beetles, against year of publication. A peak of activity is indicated in the latter part of the 19th and first decade of the 20th Century, labelled "descriptive stage", and followed by a decline with its low point being the years of World War II. This is followed by a second, less pronounced, rise in activity, entitled the "revisionary stage". This is a useful summary of much information for historians of entomology.

The Introduction explains that this and subsequent issues deal with adults of genera and higher taxa only, and that much remains to be learned at all levels, but especially at the species level. Estimates of numbers of taxa are given for South Australia (1000 genera, 3200 species), representing about 16 per cent of the Australian total. Advice is offered about study of beetles, and two plates illustrate collecting and curating equipment and methods.

The next section includes a map of South Australia, with life zones indicated thereon. This section also explains how the book is structured, and how it is to be used for identification of genera. The focus is on picture keys, spread over 29 plates. These drawings are well executed, and diagnostic features are clearly labelled. The main portion of the text is an annotated list of names of genera and higher taxa, arranged in standard taxonomic sequence. For each genus, the number of South Australian species is listed, along with the life zones in which specimens have been collected. References are given by taxon to other publications, to the picture- key, and to habitus photographs. In the equivalent space of six full pages, all of the taxa are thus treated: Archostemata- Ommadidae (one genus); Adephega- Carabidae (78 genera); Haliplidae (one genus); Hygrobiidae (one genus); Dytiscidae (22 genera); and Gyrinidae (three genera).

The photographs are sharp, and give good impressions of the habitus of adults of each genus. Each plate has six photographs, and each photograph has a reference number and the appropriate specific name. Size of the beetle illustrated is indicated by a number representing length of the specimen, in millimeters.

An index to names of genera and higher taxa is provided, making it easy to locate desired information.

The cover is stiff, gloss paper, and on the front is a colored photograph of a male of *Megacephala*. The frontispiece is a color photograph of a living specimen of *Calosoma schayeri* Erichson.

This volume was clearly conceived and superbly executed. It is a masterpiece of clarity and brevity. Author, publisher, and printer are to be congratulated for producing a work that will no doubt stimulate development of amateur entomology in Australia, and will be of use to entomologists elsewhere who have an interest in Australian beetles.

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